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## Layton boy hits right notes with energy tune

By **Tiffany Erickson**

Deseret Morning News

It began as an ordinary day for fifth-grader Braydon Elliott. But by early afternoon he had walked the red carpet, smiled for the cameras and had autograph requests from peers.

Parents, friends and teachers accompanied representatives from the National Energy Foundation and Johnson Controls in a surprise visit to Braydon's classroom at Heritage Elementary School in Layton on Tuesday. It was a celebration to announce that he had been picked as the national winner of the third Igniting Creativity Energy Challenge.

Gene Alberico, spokesman for Johnson Controls, said along with the National Energy Foundation last fall the company asked students to submit creative projects that demonstrate what they can do to make a difference in energy conservation and the environment. Johnson Controls builds controls, automotive systems and manufacturing services.

A lifelong singer, Braydon chose to submit an original song called "Flip the Light." He had some help with production and recording from his dad.

He was picked out of thousands of entries from coast to coast, and along with the balloons and flowers Braydon and his dad will get a free educational trip to Hawaii with the national middle school and high school winners. They will visit the Volcano National Park, a world-renowned observatory, tropical forests and the black sand beaches.

Then Braydon will take his mom with him to Washington, D.C., where he will participate in the National Energy Efficiency Forum and share his song with government leaders and energy-policy-makers.

It was a lot for a young boy to take in so quickly — but Braydon's response: "Yes!"

During the surprise awards presentation they played his song — his voice remarkably strong and clear for a fifth-grader — and he walked on the red



Braydon Elliott, 11, learns he has won Igniting Energy Challenge with song "Flip the Light." Brothers Jason and Brady are behind him.

Jeremy Harmon, Deseret Morning News

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"We feel very proud and pleased that a student would have that kind of dedication and desire to put together something that's so well-done," said John Sheffield, Heritage's principal.

Going along with the Hawaiian theme, Braydon's teachers, parents and principal were presented with pineapples — a little piece of Hawaii.

The Igniting Creative Energy Challenge is an educational competition sponsored and funded through an educational grant by Johnson Controls, with additional support from the U.S.

Energy Association. It is administered by the National Energy Foundation.

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